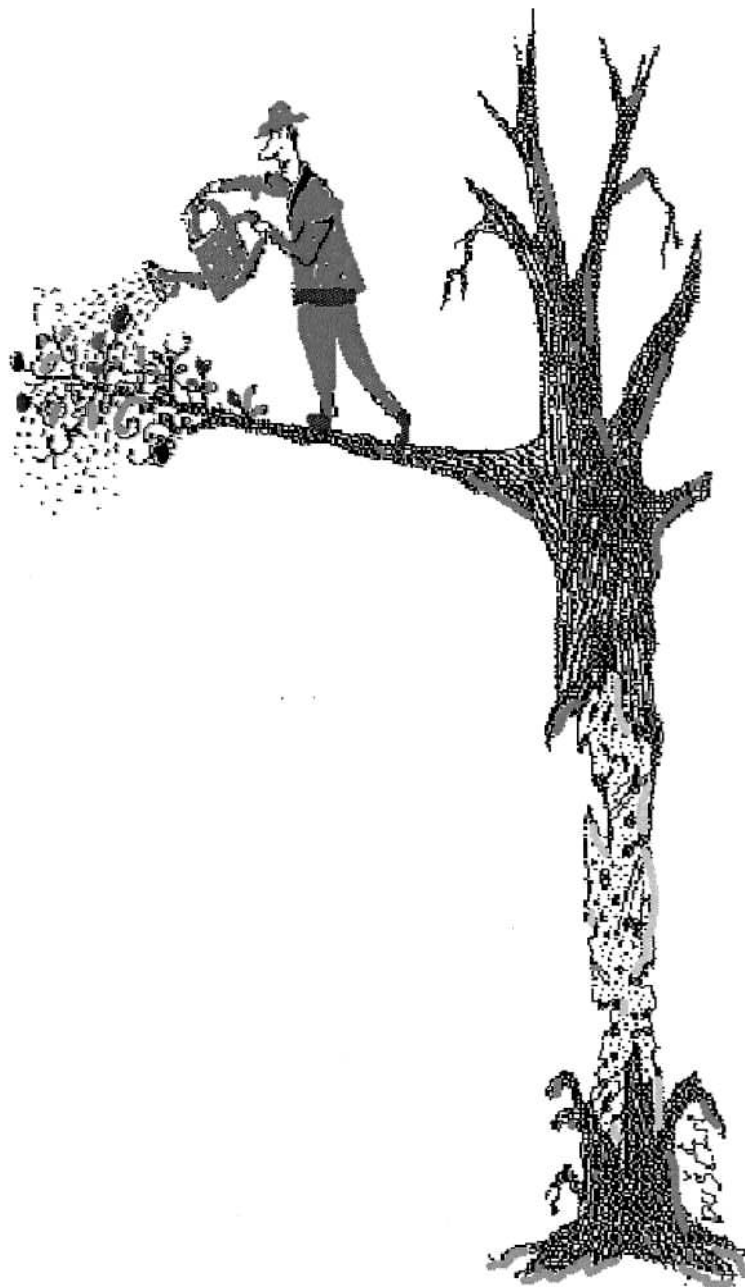


The truth in our National Parks ...



... and on our Waterway too !

September 7, 2007

The Panel on the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway

It is with much respect that I make this submission to the Panel.

We have great hopes for the Panel and its mandate. Indeed, this Panel gives us reason to be very optimistic for the future of a most valuable National Treasure.

I trust that this submission, while possibly a bit negative, will be of some support as the Panel attempts to sort through the many priorities of our Waterway.

Please contact me if there is any way that I can be of assistance or support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul".

Paul Frechette
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Respectfully submitted to the Panel on the future of the TSW:

We on the Waterway are Guardians of the most valuable resource on the Planet.

We have received into our care the use of beautiful lakes, rivers and canals along with many almost priceless structures at lock and bridge sites.

Our mandate includes the wise choice of public use so that these treasures can be enjoyed while protecting all of it for future generations.

While we have enjoyed significant success in providing for its enjoyment, we have failed terribly by not protecting our water.

Budget restrictions and policies for use have made it all but impossible for us to protect our most valuable resource.

This MUST change !

If we cannot find a way to use our water without polluting and destroying it, then we must restrict our pleasures until we do. Navigation must cease, or at least be reduced or changed until the damage we do is equalled by our protection.

Every day we put oil and other pollutants into the water. Many locks and bridges do it. Many boats do it.

We must stop this negligence. Under the cover of our mandate to protect, we destroy.

It is possible to use the water without destroying it. We must find the way and we must pay for it. Either we find a way to lock boats without terribly polluting the water, or we must stop locking boats.

Our Water is the most valuable resource on the Planet. We MUST start treating it as such.

OUR VERY SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON WATER.

WE MUST NOT DESTROY IT.

Voluntary Compliance

The issue of Voluntary Compliance is a serious one which must be addressed.

Random Thoughts:

(the OPP often have no-one able to respond within the time necessary to effect a solution to 'potential situations')

(most occurrences happen during week-ends and holidays when OPP are already stretched and no Waterway support staff available) (there is a stand-by Supt. on call but this support is of little or no use for enforcement issues)

(local officers and communications staff have little or no knowledge of Waterway requirement for enforcement support. The same is often true of senior Waterway staff as well)

(requests for Police assistance regarding boating accident took three days for response. Waterway staff are left to cope with ramifications in the meantime)

(staff are instructed to "**REPORT THE INCIDENT TO THE NEAREST LOCAL POLICE FORCE OF JURISDICTION**" but are not given any instruction regarding action should Police assistance not be available)

(staff are instructed to "**WITHDRAW FROM THE SITUATION**" but that is not possible unless we leave the station)

(Waterway management does not support staff involvement in enforcement issues, but will not instruct staff to ignore lack of compliance)

(lock staff are given the understanding that if/when no Police response is possible, staff should take information which would be given to Police at first opportunity)

(perhaps we should take down the speed signs if there is no support to enforce them. Perhaps we should ignore the Canal Regulations that have bearing on the behaviour of the Waterway user since any complaint by that same user results in sympathy and apology from our management)

('Voluntary Compliance' means users don't really have to purchase a lock or mooring permit since we are not permitted to refuse service to anyone)

('Voluntary Compliance' means persons contemplating shoreline development don't really have to make application for approval since there is very little

follow-up or enforcement with penalties for infractions) (many people save the application fee and laugh at our requirements)

(there is much emphasis put on providing through navigation, usually at all cost. This has proven to be a mistake as we begin to see the real 'cost of doing business' evidenced in many ways, not the least being condition of our water)

Possible Solutions:

(change legislation to reflect both problems and solutions)

(existing Historic Canal Regulations do a reasonable job of protecting the many resources but should be amended and enforced)

(the National Parks Act could and perhaps should apply to Waterway, or existing Regulations adapted to increase protection of resources, especially water)

(every or selected/most lock stations should have one staff empowered to lay charges under Canal Regulations OR other staff ((wardens)) should be available for enforcement)

(funding for paid duty as required OR two Provincial Police officers seconded to the Waterway for serious violations – of which there are many)

(current message from Parks Canada regarding Voluntary Compliance should be changed to reflect commitment to enforce necessary Regulations)

(local Police services are usually inadequate to cope with enforcement situations especially during July and August; more resources have to come from somewhere)

(if we continue to give navigation all priority, perhaps we should move the Waterway to Transport or some other Department that does not claim to value and protect the natural environment)

Any present statement regarding Protection of Resources on the Waterway is totally hypocritical.

There is little or no reaction to pollution of our precious Waterway.

If we continue in this manner, the Waterway will close with or without our consent !

Contrasts

At lock 42 there is a vending machine. In this vending machine water is sold for Two Dollars a bottle, a 591 ml. bottle. Date 2007.

At lock 42 we use, and pollute, 750, 000 (more or less) gallons of water with each lockage.

If we were to fill the chamber from the vending machine we would need 9,607,614 Dollars for each lockage.

Or, if we were to use the lock water for drinking, we could sell it in 591 ml. bottles in a machine and gross 9,607,614 dollars.

Each lockage uses approximately 4,803,807 little plastic bottles of water.

Think about it. The price of clean drinking water is only going to increase as it becomes more rare.

How high will the price for fresh water have to go before we realize the treasure we have in this country ?

How much longer will we continue to pollute our fresh water under the protection of Parks Canada ?

Again - It is possible to use the water without destroying it. We must find the way and we must pay for it. Either we find a way to lock boats without terribly polluting the water, or we must stop locking boats.